

IDAHO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

OFFICIAL MINUTES

August 3, 2006

A meeting of the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (ECC) was held on this date at 299 South 3rd Street, in McCall. Chairman Nancolas called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Members Present:

Garret Nancolas, Mayor, City of Caldwell, Commission Chairman
Rich Wills, State Representative, Commission Vice-Chairman
Gary Aman, Owyhee County Sheriff
Teresa Baker, Ada County Prosecutor's Office
Clint Berry, Qwest, Boise
Bill Bishop, Director, Bureau of Homeland Security
Ann Cronin, Special Assistant, Idaho State Police, Commission Secretary
Dia Gainor, Chief, Idaho Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Troy Hagen, Director, Ada County Paramedics
Jim Lemm, J&R Electronics, Inc., Coeur d'Alene
Kevin Quick, Chief, Pocatello Fire Department

Members Absent:

Matt Beebe, Commissioner, Canyon County Commission
Joanna Guilfooy, Deputy Attorney General and Ex-Officio Member
R. David Moore, Blackfoot Police Chief, Commission Treasurer

Others Present:

Dodie Collier, Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) (via telephone)
Eddie Goldsmith, Statewide E911 Project Manager
Jack Tallent, Retired Aerospace System Engineer, from Riggins
Scot Maring, Department of Administration

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Cronin moved and Commissioner Quick seconded that the Commission approve the minutes of the July 6, 2006 Idaho Emergency Communications Commission meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Scot Maring, ADM's staff support to the ECC, presented the financial report which shows that the Commission has collected \$128,132 in Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) and has a current balance of \$180,477.

The Commission discussed protocol for expenditures from its operating budget. It was a consensus that once the budget was approved, any expenditure within the budgeted amount is an approved expenditure. Requests for expenditure beyond the budgeted amount or not covered specifically by a line item will have to be brought to the Commission for additional review. It was further discussed that if a request needs review and there is no time for a meeting, the request could be approved by the Chair and then approved by the Commission as a supplemental approval at the next meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Gainor moved and Commissioner Wills seconded that the financial report be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

SIEC Report

Dodie Collier, Project Manager for the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC), provided the following update by teleconference call:

- The last meeting of the SIEC was held on July 27th.
- New appointment to the SIEC by the Governor's Office include
 - Joe Young, Bonner County Commissioner, will represent the Idaho Association of Counties
 - Jon Heggen will represent the Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 - Mark Hilton will represent the National Interagency Fire Center
 - Shawn Larsen, Mayor of Rexburg, will represent the Association of Idaho Cities
- Northeast Idaho law enforcement representatives attended the meeting and are in the development phase of an engineering study on a 700 MHz system.
- Bannock County has its 700 MHz wide area system fully functioning and Kootenai County is beginning tests on a 700 MHz system they have acquired.
- The SIEC is drafting a Governance document and looking at the maintenance costs of the master site.
- The appropriation the SIEC was hoping for from the Federal Government was one vote short for approval and will not happen this year.

The next meeting of the SIEC is August 24, 2006, in Building 440, Gowen Field, Boise. (This meeting has since been postponed until September 28, 2006.)

E911 Project Manager Report

Mr. Goldsmith reported the following:

- He has visited twenty-three (23) of the forty-seven (47) 911 centers in Idaho and plans to visit the remainder by mid-September. He will then focus on finalizing the needs assessment, getting prices from vendors, and determining the amount of money that will be required to bring all centers to Phase II status.
- The Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) database remains an issue as many non-enhanced PSAPs do not understand it nor know how it works. Training is needed and six public safety answering points (PSAPs) have already requested training from him.
- Non-enhanced PSAPs will need new telephone systems at an average cost of \$100,000 to \$150,000 per center.
- His reception by the counties has been good and he has received many requests for assistance.

Chairman Nancolas asked about Mr. Goldsmith's earlier observations that 50% of the counties supported consolidation and 50% were against it. Mr. Goldsmith stated that he is continuing this dialog on consolidation during each county visit. Those against consolidation express that they are most familiar with their counties. Mr. Goldsmith said a good mapping system can eliminate this concern. Another misconception is that centers do not save money on personnel costs through consolidation, as dispatchers normally perform additional duties that are still required. Benefits of consolidation, it was discussed, are realized from efficiencies gained in coordination between the responding entities and lower costs for software and computer maintenance.

It was a consensus that the Commission must show the individual jurisdictions the advantages of consolidation. The Commission should help them to understand a governance structure that can work, but ultimately, it is the individual jurisdiction's decision. Input from the Commission is a recommendation only and should be perceived as helpful and not mandatory. Mr. Goldsmith added that once the needs assessment and cost analysis are completed, details and valid reasons why consolidation will work can be provided to the counties.

Discussion continued that the legislative intent is to move towards consolidation. Keeping an open mind and realizing consolidation can be different for different jurisdictions are important. What may work in one area may not work in another. Education on consolidation is the key to making it happen.

Vonage Update

Commissioner Baker reported that the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) signed an agreement with Vonage, a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) provider. The IAC will receive from Vonage \$1.00 per subscriber effective August 1, 2006. She also stated that Ada County signed agreements with three or four other VoIP providers. These agreements are effective, but have preemptive language that they become invalid if changes to Title 31 are approved by the Legislature addressing the collection of fees from VoIP providers.

Legislative Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Baker distributed draft legislation that the subcommittee is recommending be proposed at the next legislative session. Commissioner Baker will provide an update at the next commission meeting after reviewing feedback from the Commission.

“Next Steps” Subcommittee Report

It was a consensus that this subcommittee had completed its role upon hiring the Statewide E911 Project Manager, Mr. Goldsmith. Mr. Goldsmith was therefore asked to look at the Action Items created at the inaugural meeting of the ECC. He is to recommend changes to the list and consider restructuring and reprioritizing it.

Commissioner Baker reported that while the Commission was funding Mr. Goldsmith’s position as the Statewide E911 Project Manager, the full-time position (FTP) was on loan from the Department of Administration. Action is needed to make the position permanent. She added that she had contacted Ms. Dawn Hall of the Idaho Division of Financial Management and is investigating what action is needed to do so.

New Business

Chairman Nancolas discussed the email received from Commissioner Guilfooy concerning House Bill (HB) 707. Prior to HB 707, Idaho’s sunshine laws required lobbyists seeking to influence legislators/legislation to register with the Secretary of State and file certain reports. The point of HB 707 is to extend the requirement for registration and reporting to those who lobby an “executive official.” Members of the ECC are within the definition of “executive official” in the statute. As such, a lobbyist who communicates with commissioners for the purpose of influencing a rulemaking process, procurement, contract, or bid is subject to this statute and must register and report. HB 707 imposes registration and reporting obligations on the lobbyists, not on the commissioners.

Future Meeting Coordination

The September 7th meeting will be held in Blackfoot at the Blackfoot City Hall, 157 North Broadway Street, Blackfoot. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Scot Maring will coordinate transportation to the meetings.

MOTION: Commissioner Bishop moved and Commissioner Aman seconded that the September 7th meeting be held in Blackfoot and the October 5th and November 2nd meetings be held in Boise. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Comment Period

Mr. Jack Tallent, a retired aerospace system engineer from Riggins, provided comments and commended the Commission for its work. He stated there is a real need for a reliable emergency system throughout Idaho. He asked that the Commission consider a total system, from dispatcher to responder.

Commissioner Quick provided a brief report on the 700 MHz system in Bannock County. He reported that all agencies in Bannock County are on this enhanced system and the portable radios are working well. A Bingham County repeater just came on line which provided the system even more improvement. The system was put to use during a fire two weeks prior and he was able to talk to all responding parties for the first time using just one radio. There are still issues in communicating with the local forest service and Bureau of Land Management, but they are working to resolve them. He said they are also working on paging issues. The previous system allowed different tones to page different parties, while the 700 MHz system does not allow for that.

Adjournment

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Aman and seconded by Commissioner Bishop to adjourn the August 3, 2006 Idaho Emergency Communications Commission meeting at 2:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Garret Nancolas, Chairman
Idaho Emergency Communications Commission

Scot R. Maring, Administrative Assistant
Department of Administration